



CRICKHOWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1966

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1966.

Chairman of the Council - Councillor Col. C.E. Beckwith, J.P.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor G. Bush.
Chairman of the Public Health
& General Purposes Committee - Councillor Mrs. B.L. Greet.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor F.E. Parry.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

COUNCILLORS.

Col. C.E. Beckwith, J.P.
Miss M.A. Haywood.
D.S. Davies.
G. Bush.
G. Morgan.
H.J. McIntosh.
D.W. Bevan.
The Rev. A. Reed.
B.J. Rees.
Mrs. B.L. Greet.
A.G. Francis.
C.S. Farr.
F.E. Parry.
E. Davies.
The Rev. J.M. Evans.
W.R. Winstanley.

PARISH.

Partrishow.
Crickhowell.
Crickhowell.
Llanelly (Gilwern Ward).
Llanelly (Gilwern Ward).
Llanelly (Clydach Ward).
Llanelly (Darenfelen Ward).
Llangattock.
Llangattock.
Cwmdu.
Cwmdu.
Llangynidr.
Llangynidr.
Llanbedr.
Llangenny.
Llangenny.

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To: The Chairman and Members of the
Crickhowell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of the people and the work of the Public Health Department, during the year 1966.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also, the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

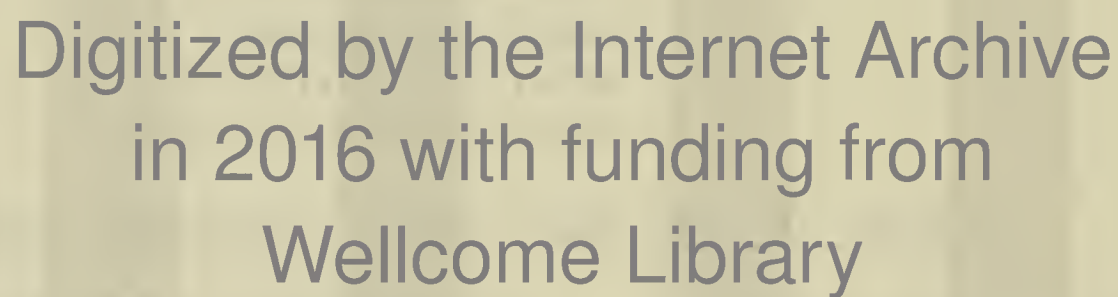
Your obedient Servant.

CREIGHTON E. EDWARDS,
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1966.

Medical Officer of Health	- C.E. Edwards, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	- R.A. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Cert. (Meat and Foods).
Housing Inspector	- M.A. Thomas.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's estimate)	8,130.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8.
<u>Acreage:-</u>	(According to the 1961 census)	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1966:-</u>		£162,772.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate:-</u>	Actual 1965/66	£633.10.10d.
	Actual 1966/67	£648. 0. 0d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1965/66	14. 8d.
	1966/67	14. 8d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	1/11d. in the £ with a minimum of £1.10.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of Domestic Dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,610.
<u>Number of Council houses (included in the above Figure):-</u>		481.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Cwmdu, Llanbedr, Llanelly, Llangattock, Llangenny, Llangynidr and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural where the workers are employed in farm work, forestry and quarrying.

The District also supplies labour to the Elvicta Handtools Factory in Crickhowell, British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool, Richard Thomas and Baldwins Ltd., Steelworks, Ebbw Vale and the Glascoed Ordnance Factory, Usk.

The re-housing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

Tenants are selected with the assistance of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation, overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When Council houses are allocated to applicants their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use being considered. These houses, if they are unfit for human habitation and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense are then covered by a Demolition Order or Closing Order.

HOUSING - DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

	<u>1966 figures.</u>	<u>1965 figures.</u>
Unfit dwellings added to the 'unfit' List during the year 1966.	3	14
Unfit houses closed or demolished under the Housing Act, 1957, in the year 1966 (including the dwellings vacated in Crickhowell that were covered by the 1937 Clearance Orders)	10	7
Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1966.	140	131
Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1966.	133	140
Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1966.	482	465
Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1966.	17	15
Number of Council Houses under construction during the year 1966.	8	17
Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1966.	44	54

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the district during the year has been good. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low during the year.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling shops, bake-houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, or under the Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1966.

SECTION A.

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
No. of legitimate Live Births	76	64	140	761
No. of illegitimate Live Births.	1	3	4	36
Total Live Births.	77	67	144	797
Birth Rate per 1000 Population 1966.	-	-	17.71	14.63
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.			1.02	1.12
No of Still Births Legitimate	-	2	2	16
No. of Still Births Illegitimate.	-	1	1	3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births.			2.77	4.51
Total Live and Still Births.			147	816
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.	-	-	20.41	23.28
<u>DEATHS.</u>				
Total Deaths for District.	52	37	89	763
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population	-	-	10.95	14.00
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.	-	-	1.02	1.12
Corrected Death Rate.	-	-	11.16	N/A.
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths from Maternal Causes.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .

(Continued).

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	
<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age:-				
Legitimate.	3	-	3	13
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	-	-	20.83	16.31
Total.				
Legitimate.	-	-	20.83	17.08
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
<u>NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-				
Legitimate.	2	-	2	11
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Total.	2	-	2	11
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:-	-	-	13.89	13.80
<u>EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:-				
Legitimate.	2	-	2	11
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Total.	2	-	2	11
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:-	-	-	13.89	13.80
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age plus No. of Still Births:-				
No. of Deaths under 1 week of age.	2	-	2	11
No. of Still Births.	-	3	3	19
Perinatal Mortality Rate:-	-	-	34.02	36.76
<u>CANCER DEATHS.</u>				
No. of Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	9	5	14	99
Cancer Death Rate.	-	-	1.72	1.81

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
1. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	-	-
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	3	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	1	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	3
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	4	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	1	-
16. Diabetes.	1	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	6	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina.	15	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	2
20. Other Heart Disease.	4	9
21. Other Circulatory Disease.	1	-
22. Influenza.	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	2	1
24. Bronchitis.	6	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations.	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5	2
33. Motor Vehicle accidents.	1	-
34. Suicide.	-	1
35. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
36. All other accidents	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
ALL CAUSES	52	37
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SECTION B.

PUBLIC ANALYST:

Dr. G.V. James, M.D.E.,
69, Dock Street,
Newport, Mon.
(Newport 63035)

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SERVICE:

Dr. H.D. Gray,
The Public Health Laboratories,
Clytha Square,
Newport, Mon.
(Newport 65431)

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Breconshire County Council
Ambulance stationed at Cwmdru.

MATERNITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:

The Clinic is situated at the rear of
the Old Town Hall, Crickhowell, and
is attended by the County Medical
Officer of Health and his assistant
Medical Officers, and by Nurse J. Silk,
the Health Visitor.
(Crickhowell 208)

WELFARE:

The District Welfare Officer,
Mr. Verley Rees, has an office in Bailey
Street, Brynmawr, and also attends offices
in Crickhowell and Gilwern. The
Breconshire County Council have facilities
for Part III Accommodation under the
National Assistance Act at Cockcroft
House, Hay, and Crawshay House, Brynmawr.
(Brynmawr 254)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:

Infectious diseases requiring
hospitalisation are admitted to
Alt-yr-Yn Isolation Hospital,
Newport, Mon.

SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications. The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1966.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Measles.	71
Scarlet Fever.	5

Tuberculosis. A schedule of new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
4	3	1	0	2	1	0	0

Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1966.

<u>Respiratory.</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
20	15	35	3	3	6

SCHOOLS. No schools were closed during the year 1966, in consequence of infectious diseases.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

The South-East Breconshire Water Board are responsible for the public water supplies in this Council's area.

The Council's area has a piped water supply to all centres of population served mainly from local springs harnessed to small local reservoirs. The supplies to Llangenny, Glangrwyney, Crickhowell (part), Gilwern (part) and Blackrock are chlorinated. These are now sampled regularly by the Water Board, but, as in the past, bacteriological results vary considerably due to the catchment areas frequently being unfenced agricultural ground. However, the Water Board have now commenced their comprehensive scheme to harness their three main sources to a large grid distribution system that will supply an adequate and pure water to all areas, and so dispense with the present local springs which can be doubtful and poor in yield.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLES.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Supply.	Satisfactory.	Slight Contamination.	Heavy Contamination
Bwlch.	1	-	-
Clydach (Blackrock).	1	-	-
Clydach (Quarry - Main Road).	1	-	1
*Crickhowell (Ffynnonau).	1	-	-
*Crickhowell (Wern).	1	1	-
Cwmdu.	-	-	2
Gilwern (Brunant).	-	1	-
Gilwern (Hydram).	-	1	-
Gilwern (Llanelly Church)	-	1	-
Llanbedr.	-	1	-
Llangattock (Ffawyddog).	1	-	-
Llangattock (Hillside).	-	1	-
Llangattock (Tyle).	-	1	-
*Llangenny.	1	-	-
Llangynidr.	2	-	-
Tretower.	-	-	2
* Denotes a chlorinated supply.			
<u>PRIVATE SUPPLIES.</u>	1	5	3

The reports on samples of water from the public supplies are forwarded to the South-East Breconshire Water Board for their information and action.

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED BY A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Estimated total.	8,130 (Reg. Gen. estimate for 1966).
Estimated population supplied into the house.	7,062
Estimated population supplied by standpipes.	15
Estimated total population supplied.	7,077
Estimated population without a public piped water supply.	1,053

This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.

This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.

This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.

Parish.	Estimated Total Population.	Estimated Population Supplied.		
		Piped Supply.	Standpipe.	Total.
Crickhowell.	1,520	1,463	Nil.	1,463
Cwmdu.	728	402	11	413
Llanbedr.	227	54	Nil.	54
Llangynidr.	517	431	Nil.	431
Llangattock.	869	734	Nil.	734
Llangenny.	662	594	Nil.	594 Includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Llanelly.	3,539	3,384	4	3,388
Partrishow.	68	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTALS. 8,130		7,062	15	7,077

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and he has carried out the following treatments during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....	370
Business Premises.....	32
Schools.....	4
Sewerage Systems.....	Regular Treatment.
Refuse Tips.....	" "
Brooks in Villages.....	" "
Farms in the area surveyed and treated.	

The Report of treatments carried out has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

In spite of farm surveys, and the offer of treatment under Contract, the response has been poor and only twelve farms were continually under contract.

Contracts have also been signed for Cwrt-y-gollen Military Camp, Tymawr School, Tymawr Farm and Elvicta Handtools Factory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Cheltenham and Clydach Sewerage System.

The Cheltenham and Clydach Sewerage System has now been completed and is in operation. This extremely difficult scheme has brought modern drainage facilities to some 250 existing dwellings and other premises situated on each side of the steep Clydach Valley. The sewer "runs" had to be carefully planned on the sides of the valley to enable all premises, above and below the old main road, to be connected, and the scheme includes three crossings of the Heads of the Valleys Trunk Road, and the Council exercised sound foresight in arranging for these crossings to be installed during the construction of the Heads of the Valleys Road which took place prior to formal approval of the sewerage scheme.

The new system is connected to the upper end of the Gilwern system at the Saleyard area, and this necessitated the replacement of the Forge Hammer Pumps with pumps of larger capacity.

The Aberbaiden Sewage Works has been extended to provide accommodation for Clydach, and the future development in Gilwern and Govilon, and the total cost of the whole scheme is approximately £90,000.0.0d.

The Contractors worked quickly and efficiently under the supervision of your Clerk of Works, and very few complaints were received from residents of the area.

Crickhowell and Llangattock Sewerage System.

This system has operated satisfactorily with no major breakdowns, and samples of the final effluent indicates sufficient treatment apart from a high suspended solids content probably due to insufficient humus chamber capacity. Theoretically these Works are overloaded, and your Consulting Engineers have been requested to prepare a scheme to enlarge the Works to accommodate present and future development.

Other Schemes.

Llanbedr Sewerage System and the seven housing estate systems have operated satisfactorily, but routine sampling by the Usk River Authority has indicated poor results at Llanbedr and Llangynidr. The former is due to insufficient sewage entering the Works and the latter to overloading.

The Dwlch and Llangynidr Scheme is now being drawn up in detail by your Consulting Engineers preparatory to the invitation of tenders.

The Tretower Village Scheme is under consideration by the Welsh Office.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.

Regular maintenance and sludge removal, by pumping with the Wickham Towed Diesel Pump, has been carried out at the treatment plants situated at the following Housing Estates:-

Penallt, Penllwyn, St. Michael's Close, Groesffordd, Glasfryn Terrace and also the Village of Llanbedr.

The treatment plants at Glangrwyney and Llangenny are pumped out and the sludge taken away by Contractors' Tanker at three monthly intervals. This was arranged to prevent smell nuisance to occupiers of houses in the locality.

Daily maintenance has been given to the two larger public sewage works at Crickhowell and Gilwern. and to the eleven electrically operated sewage pumps in the area.

The pumps have been given regular inspection by the Insurance Company Inspectors and their reports have been satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging of the area has operated satisfactorily with the lorry travelling some, 7,250 miles and carrying away 15,000 yards of refuse to the tips at Crickhowell and Gilwern.

The Shelvoke and Drewry, fore and aft tipper, 20 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle is now in the third year of operation. It has proved to be a great success in cutting down dust during loading, greater carrying capacity and reduction in mileage. Minor faults have occurred but these have been rectified immediately by the Manufacturers under guarantee.

The whole of the scavenging area is now collected on a once per week system, with cafes, hotels, fish shops, etc., being collected twice per week if the premises are conveniently situated for this collection. The average daily collection being about 500 premises.

The regular treatment of the tip faces with an insecticide powder, applied by a "blower", continues to give an excellent result in the reduction of any fly or wasp nuisance.

Continuous control of rat infestation is carried out at both Tips.

The 1966 Anti-Litter Campaign was again supported by the Council by the display and issue of anti-litter posters to shops, hotels, and schools, and the stationing of more litter baskets and bins in the area.

F O O D A N D D R U G S .

FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

The following goods, were on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

- 58 tins Tomatoes.
- 10 tins Rice Pudding.
- 10 tins Corned Beef.
- 3 tins Peas.
- 2 tins Semolina Pudding.
- 6 tins Milk.
- 2 tins Sardines.
- 5 tins Salmon.
- 2 tins Carrots.

3 tins Potatoes.
 2 tins Custard Powder.
 2 tins Strawberries.
 3 tins Grapefruit.
 2 tins Soup.
 1 tin Cream.
 1 tin Raspberries.
 1 tin Pineapple Slices.
 1 tin Baked Beans.
 1 tin Cooked Ham.
 1 tin Luncheon Meat.
 1 jar Pickled Walnuts.
 1 jar Pickled Onions.
 1 jar Blackcurrant Conserve.
 2 bottles Ginger Cordial.
 3 pkts. Ryvita.
 2 lbs. 6 ozs. Cooked Ham.

ICE CREAM.

Forty one premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act,

The following new registration was granted during the year:-

Mr. B. Shellard, 5, High Street, Crickhowell.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The above Act called for registration of all those premises where persons are employed, and the necessary registration forms were distributed, collected and copies forwarded to the Fire Authority.

The end of the year registrations were as follows:-

Offices.	6
Retail Shops.	20
Wholesale Shops.	-
Catering Establishments.	6
Fuel Storage Depots.	-
TOTAL	32

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Inspections are now being carried out to ascertain that all the provisions of the Act are covered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKER'S YARD.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or public abattoirs within the area of this Authority.

Slaughtering occurs within the neighbouring districts where facilities are adequate, and this Council did contribute a proportion of the cost of a fully qualified Meat Inspector at Brynmawr Slaughterhouse. The latter premises have now been modernised and a charge made for meat inspection.

The Knacker's Yard of Mr. J. Davies, Tredegar, situated at Gilwern, has been regularly inspected and found to be efficiently and hygienically operated with full records maintained.

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year 1966:-

Detailed house inspections.....	634
Public Health Acts.....	755
Food.....	16
Factories.....	19
Complaints investigated.....	81
Scavenging investigations.....	32
Drainage investigations.....	248
Water Supply investigations.....	26

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Housing conditions continue to improve with the installation of modern amenities to old houses with the aid of improvement grants.

In the twelve months covered by this report thirty one improvement grants were approved, being nineteen Discretionary Grants and twelve Standard Grants.

Standard Grants were introduced in 1959, and following is a comparison of grants approved over the past fourteen years:-

	Discretionary Grants.	Standard Grants.	Total.
1953	1	-	1
1954	12	-	12
1955	21	-	21
1956	13	-	13
1957	15	-	15
1958	14	-	14
1959	19	2	21
1960	13	1	14
1961	15	5	20
1962	14	13	27
1963	16	7	23
1964	14	6	20
1965	8	22	30
1966	19	12	31

PLANNING AND BYELAW APPLICATIONS.

For the twelve months ending 31st December, 1966, the following applications were made:-

233 Applications for Planning Approval.

264 Applications for Building Regulations.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
4	4	0	0

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspections at the sixteen factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry forms.

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